Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving and forwarding e-mail ~~messages for a subscriber,~~ messages, the system comprising:

a server configured to be coupled to a network; and

an agent resident and operable on the server, the agent configured ~~to~~ to:

compare a first characteristic of the e-mail ~~messages, received for the subscriber,~~ messages to specific message characteristics ~~provided by the subscriber and~~ pre-stored on the server,

~~to~~ generate a message ID for an e-mail message that has a characteristic match,

~~to~~ send an alert message ~~to the subscriber~~ when the characteristic match is found, and

~~to~~ execute instructions for forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match,

wherein the first characteristic is located in ~~the e-mail messages in at least one of bodies of the e-mail messages and~~ attachments of the e-mail messages, the alert message includes the message ID, and

wherein the instructions are associated with the message ID and are received from the subscriber in response to the alert message.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1 wherein the agent is further configured to send the alert message to a mobile ~~device configured to be carried by the subscriber.~~ device.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1 further comprising ~~a human~~ an interface configured to allow ~~an operator to cause~~ the e-mail message that has the characteristic match to be forwarded to an e-mail ~~address provided by the subscriber responding to the alert message by conversing with the operator via telephone.~~ address.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1 further comprising a telephone menu system configured to allow ~~the subscriber, responding to the alert message, to perform~~ performance of one or more of the following actions: ~~log~~ logging in, ~~identify~~ identifying the e-mail message that has the characteristic match, ~~select~~ selecting from recorded options, and ~~input~~ inputting information for forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match.

5. (Currently Amended) An e-mail server comprising:

an e-mail system configured to receive and to forward e-mail messages; and

an agent configured ~~to~~ to:

compare a first characteristic of e-mail ~~messages, received for a subscriber,~~ messages to specific message characteristics ~~provided by the subscriber and~~ pre-stored on the e-mail server,

~~to~~ generate a message ID for an e-mail message that has a characteristic match,

~~to~~ send an alert message ~~to the subscriber~~ when the characteristic match is found, and

~~to~~ execute instructions for forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match,

wherein the first characteristic is located in ~~the e-mail messages in at least one of bodies of the e-mail messages and~~ attachments of the e-mail messages,

<u>wherein</u> the alert message includes the message ID, and

<u>wherein</u> the instructions are associated with the message ID and are received ~~from the subscriber~~ in response to the alert message.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving, filtering, and routing <u>an</u> e-mail ~~messages,~~ <u>message,</u> comprising:

prerecording, on a mail server, characteristics for the e-mail ~~messages~~ <u>message</u> to be ~~routed, the characteristics provided by a subscriber;~~ <u>routed;</u>

receiving, at the mail server, ~~an~~ <u>the</u> e-mail ~~message addressed to the subscriber;~~ <u>message;</u>

comparing a first characteristic of the received e-mail message to the prerecorded ~~characteristics provided by the subscriber,~~ <u>characteristics,</u> the first characteristic being located in ~~the e-mail message in at least one of a body of the e-mail message and~~ an attachment of the e-mail message;

identifying and storing, on the mail server, the received e-mail message if a characteristic match is found with one of the prerecorded characteristics;

generating a message ID for the received e-mail message if the characteristic match is found with the one of the prerecorded characteristics;

sending an alert message to the subscriber when the characteristic match is found, the alert message including the message ID;

receiving instructions for forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match, the instructions being the associated with the message ID and being received from the subscriber in response to the alert message; and

forwarding the e-mail message that has the characteristic match to a destination according to the instructions provided in response to the alert message.

10-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An agent A system for processing e-mail messages, comprising:

a stored memory configured to store a list of message characteristics provided by a subscriber; and to store an e-mail message having a characteristic match for future distribution instructions, the future distribution instructions associated with a message ID and received in response to an alert message;

a receiver configured to receive the e-mail message; and

a receiver configured to receive an e-mail message and to processor configured to process instructions to:

ascertain a first message characteristic of the received e-mail message, the first message characteristic being located in the e-mail message in at least one of a body of the e-mail message and an attachment of the e-mail message; message,

~~a comparator configured to~~ compare the first message characteristics of the received e-mail ~~messages with~~ message to the stored list of message characteristics,

~~to~~ tag the e-mail message if there is ~~a~~ the characteristic match, ~~and to~~

generate ~~a~~ the message ID for the e-mail message if there is the characteristic ~~match;~~ match, and

~~an alert mechanism configured to~~ send ~~an~~ the alert message ~~to the subscriber to receipt~~ of the e-mail message having the characteristic match, the alert message including the message ~~ID; and~~ ID.

~~a save facility configured to store the e-mail message having the characteristic match for future distribution instructions, the future distribution instructions associated with the message ID and received from the subscriber in response to the alert message.~~

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ system of claim 13 wherein the processor is further ~~comprising a forwarding facility~~ configured to process instructions to retrieve and to forward the e-mail message having the characteristic match from the ~~save facility~~ memory to a destination provided ~~by the subscriber~~ in response to the alert message.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ system of claim 16 ~~wherein the forwarding facility comprises a human~~ further comprising an interface configured to perform one or more of the following: identify the e-mail message having the characteristic match to be retrieved, retrieve the identified e-mail message, and forward the identified e-mail message to the destination provided to an operator by the subscriber.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ system of claim 16 ~~wherein the forwarding facility comprises~~ further comprising an automated telephone menu system configured to provide choices ~~to the subscriber~~ for connecting to the ~~forwarding facility~~ system by telephone to allow ~~the subscriber calling in to identify~~ identification of the e-mail message to be forwarded, and the ~~agent~~ processor is configured to process instructions to retrieve and forward the ~~identified~~ e-mail message to the destination provided ~~by the subscriber calling~~ in response to the alert message.

19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

  ~~receiving~~ receiving, using a processor, a ~~message for a subscriber;~~ message;

  ~~comparing~~ comparing, using the processor, a characteristic of the message to a first criterion, the characteristic being located in ~~a body~~ an attachment of the message;

  if the characteristic matches the first criterion, then ~~generating~~ generating, using the processor, a message ID and sending an alert including the message ~~ID to the subscriber;~~ ID;

  ~~receiving~~ receiving, using the processor, a reply ~~from the subscriber~~ in response to the alert, the reply comprising instructions associated with the message ID; and

  ~~processing~~ processing, using the processor, the message according to the instructions.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the message is an e-mail message.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the alert is a notification message that identifies the received message and the first criterion matching the message.

22.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 19 wherein the comparing comprises ~~filtering~~ filtering, using the processor, the message to determine if parts of the message meet the first criterion.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the comparing further comprises ~~comparing~~ comparing, using the processor, the message to a second criterion, the second criterion being located in the message in at least one of a body of the message, a subject line of the message, and message sender ~~information,~~ information of the message, and wherein the generating the message ID and the sending the alert including the message ID ~~to the subscriber~~ further comprise if the characteristic matches the second criterion, then ~~generating~~ generating, using the processor, the message ID and ~~sending~~ sending, using the processor, the alert including the message ~~ID to the subscriber.~~ ID.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 19 wherein the alert comprises at least a portion of the message.

25.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 19 wherein the alert is a message sent to a pager.

26.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 19 wherein the alert is a message sent to a phone.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the instructions comprise a command to forward the message to a new destination.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the new destination is one or more of the following:

> an e-mail address;
>
> a fax number;
>
> a telephone number;
>
> a mobile device;
>
> a hand-held computer;
>
> a notebook computer;
>
> a server computer; and
>
> an Internet Service Provider.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the reply is received via one or more of the following entities:

> an operator;
>
> a voice-response system;
>
> a telephone call;
>
> an auto attendant; and
>
> a mobile device.

30. (Currently Amended) A The system as in claim 1 wherein the agent is further configured to compare a second characteristic of the e-mail messages, received for the subscriber,

messages to the specific message characteristics ~~provided by the subscriber and~~ pre-stored on the server, the second characteristic being located in the e-mail ~~messages~~ message in at least one of <u>bodies of the e-mail messages,</u> message subject line information of the e-mail ~~messages~~ messages, and message sender information of the e-mail messages.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ <u>The</u> e-mail server as in claim 5 wherein the agent is further configured to compare a second characteristic of the e-mail messages ~~received for the subscriber,~~ to the specific message characteristics ~~provided by the subscriber and~~ pre-stored on the server, the second characteristic being located in the e-mail messages in at least one of <u>bodies of the e-mail messages,</u> message subject line information of the e-mail ~~messages~~ messages, and message sender information of the e-mail messages.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> method as in claim 9, further comprising comparing a second characteristic of the received e-mail message to the prerecorded characteristics provided by the subscriber, the second characteristic being located in the e-mail message in at least one of <u>a body of the e-mail message,</u> message subject line information of the e-mail ~~message~~ message, and message sender information of the e-mail message.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A agent~~ <u>The system</u> as in claim 13 wherein the receiver is further configured to ascertain a second message characteristic of the received e-mail message, the second message characteristic being located in the e-mail message in at least one of <u>a body of the e-mail message,</u> message subject line information of the e-mail ~~message~~ message, and message sender information of the e-mail message.

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34. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a ~~server;~~ server having a processor; and

an agent associated with the server, the agent ~~configured,~~ configured to cause the processor to:

~~to~~ generate a message ID when ~~a body or~~ an attachment of an e-mail message includes a predetermined characteristic,

~~to~~ send an alert message including the message ~~ID to a subscriber,~~ ID, and

~~to~~ execute an instruction for forwarding the e-mail message ~~to the subscriber~~ upon ~~authentication of the subscriber.~~ authentication.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the agent is configured to cause the processor to determine if a content of ~~the body or~~ the attachment of the e-mail message includes the predetermined characteristic.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein the predetermined characteristic is stored on the server and the agent is configured to cause the processor to compare the predetermined characteristic with the content of ~~the body or~~ the attachment of the e-mail message to determine if the content of ~~the body or~~ the attachment of the e-mail message includes the predetermined characteristic.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the agent is further configured to
cause the processor to ~~receive, from the subscriber,~~ receive the instruction for forwarding the
e-mail message.

39. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

~~generating~~ generating, using a processing device, a message ID when ~~a body or~~ an
attachment of an e-mail message received from a packet switched network includes a
characteristic that correlates to a criterion;

sending via the packet switched network the message ~~ID to a subscriber;~~ ID; and

receiving via the packet switched network an instruction ~~from the subscriber~~ that is
used to process the e-mail message.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

~~processing~~ processing, using the processing device, the e-mail message in accordance
with the instruction.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the processing comprises
forwarding the e-mail message via the ~~network to the subscriber.~~ packet switched network.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

~~determining~~ determining, using the processing device, if a content of ~~the body or~~ the
attachment of the e-mail message includes the characteristic.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the determining comprises ~~comparing~~ comparing, using the processing device, the content of ~~the body or~~ the attachment of the e-mail message with the criterion.

44. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving, using a processing device, an original e-mail message;

producing, using the processing device, a copy of the original e-mail message;

storing, using a memory, the copy;

forwarding, using the processing device, the original e-mail message to an e-mail address of a recipient of the original e-mail message;

analyzing, using the processing device, the copy to determine if a content of the copy matches a criterion stored in the memory; and

sending, using the processing device, an alert message if the content matches the criterion.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the sending comprises:

producing, using the processing device, a new record for a first table stored in the memory; and

sending, using the processing device, a pager message for the new record for the first table.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the alert message includes a unique identifier associated with the recipient.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

receiving, using the processing device, the unique identifier and a request for the copy; and

sending, using the processing device, the copy.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the copy comprises an e-mail message and the sending the copy comprises sending, using the processing device, the e-mail message to a special e-mail address.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the copy comprises a facsimile message and the sending the copy comprises sending, using the processing device, the facsimile message to a telephone number associated with a facsimile machine.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the sending the facsimile message comprises:

producing, using the processing device, a new record for a second table stored in the memory; and

sending, using the processing device, the facsimile message for the new record for the second table.

51. (New) A system comprising:

a processing device; and

a memory in communication with the processing device, the memory for storing a plurality of processing instructions for directing the processing device to:

receive an original e-mail message,

produce a copy of the original e-mail message,

forward the original e-mail message to an e-mail address of a recipient of the

original e-mail message,

analyze the copy to determine if a content of the copy matches a criterion, and

send an alert message if the content matches the criterion.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the plurality of processing instructions are

further configured for directing the processing device to:

produce a new record for a first table stored in the memory, and

send a pager message for the new record for the first table.

53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the alert message includes a unique identifier

associated with the recipient.

54. (New) The system of claim 53, the plurality of processing instructions are further

configured for directing the processing device to:

receive the unique identifier and a request for the copy, and

send the copy.

55. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the copy comprises an e-mail message and the

plurality of processing instructions are further configured for directing the processing device

to send the e-mail message to a special e-mail address.

56. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the copy comprises a facsimile message and the plurality of processing instructions are further configured for directing the processing device to send the facsimile message to a telephone number associated with a facsimile machine.

57. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the plurality of processing instructions are further configured for directing the processing device to:

    produce a new record for a second table stored in the memory, and

    send the facsimile message for the new record for the second table.

58. (New) A system, comprising:

    means for receiving an original e-mail message;

    means for producing a copy of the original e-mail message;

    means for storing the copy;

    means for forwarding the original e-mail message to an e-mail address of a recipient of the original e-mail message;

    means for analyzing the copy to determine if a content of the copy matches a criterion stored in the memory; and

    means for sending an alert message if the content matches the criterion.

59. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having stored thereon, computer-executable instructions that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising:

    receiving, using the computing device, an original e-mail message;

    producing, using the computing device, a copy of the original e-mail message;

storing, using the computing, the copy;

forwarding, using the computing device, the original e-mail message to an e-mail address of a recipient of the original e-mail message;

analyzing, using the computing device, the copy to determine if a content of the copy matches a criterion stored in the memory; and

sending, using the computing device, an alert message if the content matches the criterion.